

**Comments in Response to Localism Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
MB Docket No. 04-233**

I would like to comment on the proposal concerning the Localism Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (the "NPRM"), released Jan. 24, 2008, in MB Docket No. 04-233.

Any new FCC rules, policies or procedures must not violate First Amendment rights. A number of proposals discussed in the NPRM, if enacted, would do so – and must not be adopted.

In my opinion it is not only unconstitutional to prevent religious freedom in this manner, it is also immoral and just plain WRONG!! The FCC must not force radio stations, especially religious broadcasters, to take advice from people who do not share their values. The NPRM's proposed advisory board proposals would impose such unconstitutional mandates. This is tantamount to requiring an atheist publisher or broadcaster to transmit Christian or other religious beliefs. The First Amendment prohibits government, including the FCC, from dictating what viewpoints a broadcaster, particularly a religious broadcaster, must present. This phrase has been used before but it bears repeating. The United States Constitution guarantees freedom OF religion, not FROM religion.

The FCC must not turn every radio station into a public forum where anyone and everyone has rights to air time. Proposed public access requirements would do so – even if a religious broadcaster conscientiously objects to the message. The First Amendment forbids imposition of message delivery mandates on any religion. At the present those who wish to hear views like their own can do so by listening to privately funded broadcasts or reading publications of their choosing. I DO pay to provide assistance to the radio station I prefer to listen to as it receives NO public funding. Yet, the radio and television that does receive public funding broadcasts many ideas, images and music which I personally do not condone or agree with. You would presume to decide for me what I want to listen to.

It seems the next step would be to nationalize print media as well so we can only read the news deemed fit by government officials, elected or not! This is unacceptable and not a far stretch to preventing me or any private citizen from voicing their opinions without fear of government censure or control.

In over 20 years of service to this nation in the military, I very well realize I served at the need and for the benefit of the citizenry, not to promote my personal views or agendas. It is becoming readily apparent that conviction is woefully lacking in our country today. While I do not agree with what many others say, it is most certainly their right to watch, read and listen to media which as they see fit without requiring me to listen to the same as them, but to have the same rights to select what I want.

We urge the FCC not to adopt the rules or policies in this proposal and continue to allow us to enjoy the religious freedoms and beliefs that our country and our way of life were built upon.

Ronald Hawkins
9121 Parkview Blvd
Lavista, NE 68128.